

Message Text

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SUBJECT: SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT: JACQUEMIN VISIT

REF: BRUSSELS 4560

1. BELGIAN EMBASSY (GROVEN) HAS NO DOUBT BEEN IN TOUCH WITH DEPARTMENT REGARDING VISIT TO WASHINGTON OF ALEX JACQUEMIN, CHEF DE CABINET TO SCIENCE POLICY MINISTER HANIN. JACQUEMIN PLANS TO ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON AFTERNOON OF SEPTEMBER 5 AND TO DEPART SEPTEMBER 8 FOR ANN ARBOR, WHERE HE IS HOLDING SEMINAR.

2. MAIN PURPOSE OF VISIT TO WASHINGTON IS TO DISCUSS AREAS TO BE INCLUDED IN POSSIBLE BILATERAL SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT. JACQUEMIN SUGGESTED THAT EMBASSY FORWARD TO DEPARTMENT HIS PRELIMINARY IDEAS ON SPECIFIC AREAS, WHICH INCLUDE:

A. MATHEMATICAL PROBLEM-SOLVING MODELS FOR WATER POLLUTION. BELGIAN UNIVERSITIES HAVE BEEN WORKING ON SUCH MODELS AS PART OF CCMS EFFORT FOR MEUSE AND SAMBRE BASINS AND NORTH SEA. JACQUEMIN BELIEVES THAT TECHNOLOGICAL SPINOFF FROM THESE
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EFFORTS MIGHT BE FRUITFUL SUBJECT OF BILATERAL COLLABORATION TOWARD COSTING OF POLLUTION AND ANTI-POLLUTION MEASURES.

B. BELGIAN RESEARCHER HAS DONE STUDY OF SOCIOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF WORKING IN LARGE FIRMS, USING AS "HAPPINESS" CRITERIA SUCH MEASURES AS ABSENTEEISM. JACQUEMIN BELIEVES FURTHER STUDIES COULD BE DONE IN DIRECTION OF OBJECTIFYING JOB SATISFACTION, AND THOUGHT HIS MINISTRY MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN FUNDING SUCH A PROJECT BY US RESEARCHERS IN BELGIUM.

C. ANOTHER RECENT STUDY SPONSORED BY MINISTRY RELATES SIZE OF FIRM TO R AND D PROGRAMS. PRELIMINARY RESULTS SHOW LITTLE ADVANTAGE OF SCALE BEYOND 200 EMPLOYEE LEVEL.

D. BELGIUM HAS SIGNIFICANT EXPERTISE IN ADVANCED METALLURGICAL TECHNOLOGY. US INSTITUTIONS MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN COLLABORATION ON MORE THEORETICAL OFFSHOOTS OF SUCH TECHNOLOGY.

E. AGREEMENT COULD ALSO MENTION ON-GOING US-BELGIAN COOPERATION SUCH AS:

- A. CONTRACTS WITH KARMANN INSTITUTE OF FLUID DYNAMICS
- B. ROYAL OBSERVATORY SATELLITE TRACKING
- C. UNIVERSITY OF BRUSSELS MOONROCK ANALYSIS.

3. JACQUEMIN IS HOPING TO MEET BRIEFLY WITH TREASURY SECRETARY SHULTZ. MUTUAL FRIEND, HEAD OF LOUVAIN'S INSTITUTE DE SCIENCE ECONOMIQUE PROFESSOR DREZE, HAS WRITTEN TO SECRETARY REQUESTING APPOINTMENT FOR JACQUEMIN. WE RECALL FROM SECRETARY'S VISIT TO BRUSSELS LAST YEAR THAT DREZE IS INDEED GOOD FRIEND.

4. JACQUEMIN IS YOUNG AND BRIGHT, WITH DEGREES IN LAW, MATHEMATICS AND ECONOMICS (THE LAST FROM BERKELEY). HE QUITE CLEARLY WISHES TO BROADEN ROLE OF HIS MINISTRY, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH, AND SEES SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH US AS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPOSE BELGIAN SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY TO US METHODOLOGY. CROWLEY

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